

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides comprising variant amino acid sequence that are at least 80% identical to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 wherein the polypeptides comprise alterations to the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of inactivated N-glycosylation site(s), inactivated protease processing site(s), conservative amino acid substitution(s), and combinations thereof.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 wherein the polypeptides comprise alterations to the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of inactivated N-glycosylation site(s), inactivated protease processing site(s), conservative amino acid substitution(s), and combinations thereof.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 wherein the polypeptides comprise alterations to the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of inactivated N-glycosylation site(s), inactivated protease processing site(s), conservative amino acid substitution(s), and combinations thereof.

Please add the following new claims:

10. A method of treating an individual afflicted with an inflammatory and/or autoimmune disease comprising administering to the individual an IL-1 delta polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein inflammatory and/or autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, psoriasis, and combinations thereof.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein inflammatory and/or autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of: ankylosing spondylitis, Crohn's Disease, ulcerative colitis, psoriatic arthritis, asthma, infection-associated airway hyperactivity,